

Permit Process Extended for Bad River Band Permits

Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Bad River Indian Reservation, Wisconsin July 2013

Extended comment period and public hearing scheduled

The EPA is seeking further comments on the draft permits for the Bad River Band's three community wastewater treatment facilities. The original comment period ended in May and a public hearing was requested. EPA will respond to all comments received during both comment periods and at the public hearing.

**The extended comment period closes
Tuesday, September 3, 2013.**

An open house and formal public hearing have been scheduled:

Tuesday, August 27, 2013

Information Session:

6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Public Hearing:

7:15 to 9:00 p.m.

Gitche Gumee Convention Center
Bad River Lodge & Convention Center
73370 US Highway 2
Odanah, Wisconsin

How to comment

If you have submitted a comment, you do not need to resubmit.

Send new written comments to:

John Colletti

U.S. EPA (WN-16J)

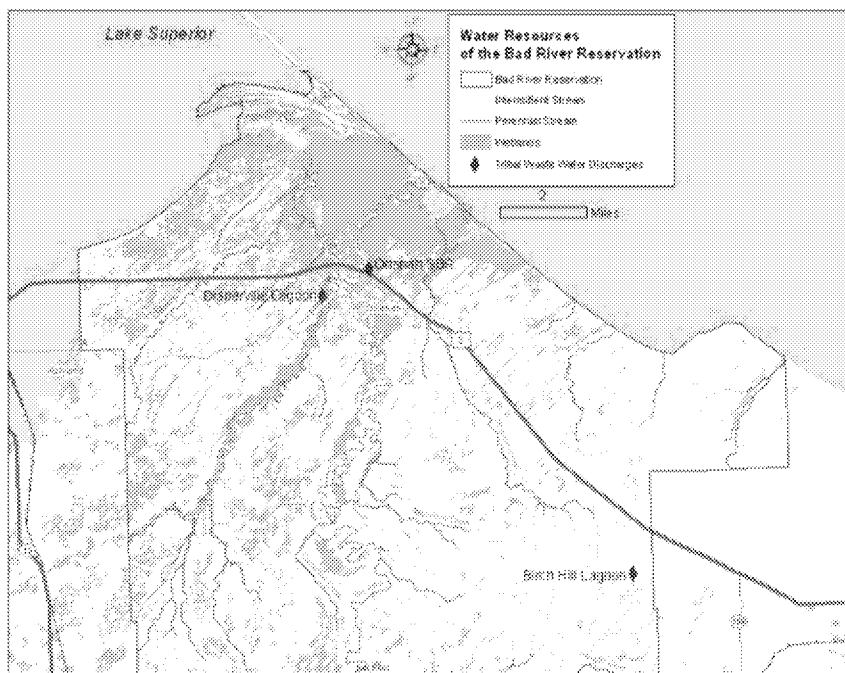
77 W. Jackson Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Or email: colletti.john@epa.gov

Right to appeal

You have the right to appeal any final permit decision if you made an official comment in the previous comment period, the extended comment period or commented at the public hearing. The first appeal must be made to the Environmental Appeals Board.



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has scheduled a public hearing on its tentative decision to issue permits requested by the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians (Band). EPA is responsible for issuing permits to facilities that discharge within Indian Reservations. The Band wants to continue discharging treated wastewater from its three community wastewater treatment facilities into federally protected waters. The Band's facilities are the Diaperville Stabilization Lagoon, which discharges treated wastewater to Hanson Swamp, the Birch Hill Stabilization Lagoon, which discharges treated wastewater to Birch Hill Swamp, and the Bad River Wastewater Treatment Plant, which discharges treated wastewater to the Bad River. These facilities are located within the boundaries of the Bad River Indian Reservation.

The Clean Water Act authorizes EPA to regulate the discharge of pollutants to federally protected waters through the issuance of permits. The existing permits for these facilities expired in August of 2011 but have continued in effect since the Band submitted timely permit renewal applications. The draft permits set pollutant discharge limits and require periodic monitoring and reporting. EPA developed the limits using technology standards and the Band's federally-approved water quality standards, which are applicable to waters within the reservation. The Band certified under Clean Water Act Section 401 that the permits comply with the Band's standards. The draft permits include additional monitoring and operation and maintenance requirements not required by the existing permits. This includes monitoring for sulfates and mercury and development and implementation of a preventative maintenance program.

Based on permit applications and additional information submitted by the Band, EPA has tentatively decided to issue permits for the three facilities. EPA received requests for a public hearing during the original comment period, which closed in May. In response to those requests, EPA will hold a public hearing and extend the comment period before making a final decision on issuing the permits.

You may view, the public notice, statements of basis, and draft permits on Region 5's website at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/npdestek/badriverband/index.html>. All data submitted by the applicants are available as part of the administrative records.

More information available

You may also view related documents at the EPA's Chicago office. Please contact:

John Colletti
Permit Writer
312-886-6106
colletti.john@epa.gov

For further questions, call toll-free, 800-621-8431, weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.